

R047

R H

UNITED PRESS INTERNATL

PM-ITT SKED 2-13

BY GREGORY GORDON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- TWO FORMER SENATE INVESTIGATORS -- FEARING THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ONLY MILD ACTION -- ARE CALLING FOR STIFF PROSECUTION OF TOP ITT OFFICERS WHO FAILED TO FULLY DESCRIBE COVERT CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE.

"THE ISSUE IS REALLY THE INTEGRITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARING PROCESS," ONE FORMER INVESTIGATOR TOLD UPI.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE WITHIN A MONTH WHETHER TO SEEK FELONY INDICTMENTS AGAINST HAROLD GENEEN, 68, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CORP., AND EDWARD GERRITY, 54, AN ITT SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT.

DESPITE REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY FROM EDWARD KORRY, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE SAID THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL ACTIVELY CONSIDERING CHARGES OF PERJURY AND CONSPIRACY TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE AGAINST THE ITT OFFICIALS.

IN 1973 HEARINGS HELD BY A SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, BOTH GENEEN AND GERRITY FAILED TO DISCLOSE FULL DETAILS OF THE ITT'S OFFER OF \$1 MILLION AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR CIA COVERT EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE 1970 ELECTION OF THE LATE CHILEAN PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE.

ITT FEARED ITS CHILEAN PROPERTIES WOULD BE EXPROPRIATED IN THE EVENT OF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER.

KORRY SAYS HE WAS TOLD THERE ARE INDICATIONS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING TO LET ITT OFF "IN ANOTHER COVER-UP."

HE AND THE TWO FORMER SENATE INVESTIGATORS SAID THEY ARE WORRIED THE ITT OFFICERS WILL GET THE SAME TREATMENT AS FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS, WHO ALSO DUCKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHILE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

HELMS PLEADED "NO CONTEST" LAST FALL TO TWO MISDEMEANOR COUNTS AND WAS GIVEN A SUSPENDED JAIL SENTENCE.

"THAT WAS DISGRACEFUL," SAID JACK BLUM, FORMER ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

HE SAID HELMS "LIED TO CONGRESS" AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TOOK AWAY CONGRESS' "ONLY HONEST CHECK" TO ASSURE DISCLOSURE OF COVERT ACTIVITIES.

172

UNITED PRESS INTERNATL

BLUM SAID GENEEN AND GERRITY SHOULD BE CHARGED SO THAT FUTURE WITNESSES WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO TESTIFY ON INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, ADDING THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE "REAL STORY" ABOUT CHILE HAS COME OUT YET.

THE OTHER EX-INVESTIGATOR, WHO DECLINED TO BE NAMED, SAID HE DOUBTED THE TOP ITT OFFICIALS WOULD BE INDICTED BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION "DOES NOT WANT TO OFFEND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY."

"THEY'VE GOT A COLD CASE AGAINST THOSE GUYS -- PERJURY," THE INVESTIGATOR SAID.

ASKED WHAT WOULD BE A SUITABLE PUNISHMENT, BOTH EX-INVESTIGATORS SAID "JAIL."

UPI 02-13 04:58 RES

A048

282